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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re application of:**

Inventor: Robert M. Ford

Serial No.: 09/330,466 <sup>446</sup> SMD

Filed: June 11, 1999

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING TIER-PRICED  
COMMODITIES TRANSACTIONS

Art Unit: 2163

Examiner: CHOI, K.

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FEB 19 2003  
**GROUP 3600**

Box RCE  
Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUING EXAMINATION (RCE)  
AND AMENDMENT**

In response to the Office Action dated November 8, 2002, applicant is filing a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and is amending the application as shown below in a Clean Version of the Amendments and as shown in a Marked Up Version of the Amendments, attached hereto.

**Clean Version of the Amendments:**

**In the Specification**

The paragraph on page 3, lines 12-22, is being amended to read as follows:

-- One method of dealing with the risk interruptions would be to set aside,

01 hopefully in some type of profitable investment, an amount of money equivalent to the estimated costs of purchasing spot power for the predicted interruptions. While a possible solution, this method would be difficult for the average utility customer to implement because of the lack of